

Patent claims

1. A method for selecting resources in communication networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching networks (VoIP), having communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use the resources in the network,
5 where a plurality of resources provide the communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the same function,
10 characterized in that
 - the functions and statements about the performance of a plurality of or all resources are ascertained and stored by a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),
15
 - when a resource is being used by a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) at least one database is used to store resource-specific information about the use of this resource, and
20
 - the stored functions and statements and/or the resource-specific information stored in the database are used to select the resource.
- 25 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that information sent by the resources is statistically evaluated and stored for the purpose of storing the resource-specific information.
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3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the resource-specific information stored is information about the reliability and/or safety and/or availability and/or the costs for use of the resource.
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4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized
in that the resource-specific information stored by a
5 communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
S1, S2) can be provided for other communication
components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).
5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
10 claims,
characterized
in that the resources are the useable services of
communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
S1, S2).
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6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized in that
at least one of the communication components (A1 - A4,
20 B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) has an integrated search
function for ascertaining the addresses of resources of
further communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,
C1 - C3, S1, S2).
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7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized in that
the reaction times of the resources are taken into
account for the statement about the performance.
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8. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized in that
information about the present utilization level or
35 about the remaining capacity of the resource is taken
into account for the statement about the performance.

9. The method as claimed in one of the preceding

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claims,
characterized
in that if a resource which is being used by the
communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
5 S1, S2) fails then the communication component selects
the next available resource with the same function for
further use.

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10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,

characterized

in that the functions and/or the statements about the

5 performance of a plurality of or all resources are repeatedly ascertained immediately after the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) has been turned on and/or at stipulated intervals of time.

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11. A computer program product for carrying out one of the aforementioned methods,

characterized by

- a module for finding the addresses of further communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),
- a module for checking the availability and for ascertaining the performance of resources,
- a module which, when a resource in at least one database is being used, stores resource-specific information about the use of this resource, and
- a module for selecting a resource on the basis of the information checked and/or the resource-specific information stored in the database.